

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 05150 01 OF 02 182305Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
NSA-01 TRSE-00 /065 W  
-----182312 102822 /61/47

R 182030Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9918  
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 05150

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT ADDED IN SUMMARY)

E.O.: 11652: GDS  
TAGS: FR, PINT  
SUBJECT: MICHEL D'ORNANO: DOUBLE OR NOTHING FOR PARIS

REFERENCE: PARIS 2102

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF BERNARD LAFAY, RPR  
MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE IN THE 17TH ARRONDISSE-  
MENT IN PARIS, MICHEL D'ORNANO, WHOM MOST OB-  
SERVERS ASSUMED WOULD RUN IN THE SAME ARRONDISSEMENT,  
NOW HAS DECIDED TO RUN IN THE 18TH. HIS CHANCES OF  
WINNING ARE DOUBTFUL, BUT INITIAL REACTIONS TO HIS  
MOVE GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR COURAGE, FOR DARING TO BE A  
CANDIDATE IN THIS COMMUNIST FIEFDOM. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DEATH OF BERNARD LAFAY: THE DEATH ON FEBRUARY 12  
OF BERNARD LAFAY, PRESIDENT OF THE CURRENT MUNICIPAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 05150 01 OF 02 182305Z

COUNCIL OF PARIS, RPR DEPUTY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
AND PARTY CANDIDATE TO HEAD CHIRAC'S LIST IN THE 17TH  
ARRONDISSEMENT, WAS INITIALLY THOUGHT TO HAVE INCREASED  
MICHEL D'ORNANO'S CHANCES OF TAKING THE 17TH. THOUGH  
HE HAD NOT YET OFFICIALLY DECLARED FROM WHAT SECTOR HE  
WOULD RUN, IT WAS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT D'ORNANO WOULD  
RUN AGAINST LAFAY. NOW, IN THE EVER CHANGING COMIC STRIP

OF THE PARIS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, BERNARD LAFAY'S SON PHILIPPE DECLARED HIS CANDIDACY ON FEBRUARY 16TH AND SENT D'ORNANO A LETTER ASKING HIM TO WITHDRAW HIS OWN CANDIDACY. D'ORNANO ACCEPTED AND, TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, DECLARED OFFICIALLY ON FEBRUARY 17TH THAT HE WOULD HEAD INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLY GROUP ROGER CHINAUD'S LIST IN THE 18TH ARRONDISSEMENT.

2. THE 18TH ARRONDISSEMENT: THE 18TH ARRONDISSEMENT -- OR THE 16TH SECTOR -- HAS HAD A COMMUNIST MAYOR FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS. OF THE EIGHT MUNICIPAL SEATS EXTANT (THIS NUMBER WILL BE UPPED TO 9 ON THE NEW MUNICIPAL COUNCIL) FIVE ARE HELD BY THE PCF, TWO BY THE SOCIALISTS AND, IN A SITUATION UNIQUE IN PARIS, BY ONE COUNCILLOR WHO IS PART OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY. HEADING THE COMMON LIST OF THE UNION OF THE LEFT IS LOUIS BAILLOT, PCF DEPUTY AND MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PCF. HE IS STRONGLY SECONDED BY CLAUDE ESTIER AND LIONEL JOSPIN, NATIONAL SECRETARIES OF THE PS AND CONFIDANTS TO MITTERRAND. NONETHELESS, IN THE SECOND ROUND OF THE 1974 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, THE VOTE WAS 47,326 FOR GISCARD AND 46,751 FOR FRANCOIS MITTERRAND. IN ADDITION, OF THE THREE DEPUTIES WHO REPRESENT THE 18TH ARRONDISSEMENT IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ONE IS AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN, ONE IS RPR AND ONE IS PCF. THUS, AS EMBASSY PARIS HAS REPORTED' THE 18TH ARRONDISSEMENT IS THE ONLY ONE IN PARIS THAT THE MAJORITY STANDS ANY SERIOUS CHANCE OF RECAPTURING FROM THE UNITED LEFT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 05150 01 OF 02 182305Z

3. D'ORNANO'S GAMBLE: D'ORNANO IS THEREFORE, TAKING A WELL CALCULATED RISK IN CHOSING THE 18TH FROM WHICH TO RUN. ON HIS LIST WILL BE ROGER CHINAUD, LEADER OF THE RI ASSEMBLY GROUP AND PERHAPS THE HARDEST-HITTING RI POLITICIAN OUTSIDE OF MICHEL PONIATOWSKI. IF HE WINS, HE WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD HIMSELF UP AS THE MAN WHO SAVED PARIS FROM THE LEFT AND WILL THEREBY INCREASE HIS CHANCES OF BEING ELECTED MAYOR (WHICH UP TO THIS POINT ARE HIGHLY DOUBTFUL). IF HE LOSES, HE LOSES EVERYTHING: THE TOWN HALL OF DEAUVILLE, THE MAYORALTY OF PARIS AND POSSIBLY HIS MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO, SINCE GISCARD HAS UNOFFICIALLY DECLARED THAT MINISTERS WHO RUN IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND LOSE SHOULD STEP DOWN (SEPTEL).

4. WHY DID HE DO IT?: D'ORNANO'S BEHAVIOR IS CURIOUS. SOME JOURNALISTS HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO CALL IT SUICIDAL. FIRST HE PICKS THE 17TH ARRONDISSEMENT, WHERE HIS CHANCES WERE NEVER PARTICULARLY GOOD, THEN HE PICKS THE 18TH E WHERE THEY ARE CERTAINLY NO BETTER. WHEN VIEWED IN THE

CONTEXT OF CHIRAC'S CANDIDACY HOWEVER, D'ORNANO'S BEHAV-  
IOR BECOMES UNDERSTANDABLE. HE IS TAKING A RISK AND  
ATTACKING WHAT HE CALLED ON FEBRUARY 18TH, "THE REAL  
ENEMY, THE LEFT." CHIRAC OPTED FOR THE SUPER-SAFE FIFTH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 05150 02 OF 02 181953Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
NSA-01 TRSE-00 /065 W  
-----182025 099566 /47

R 182030Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9919  
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 05150

ARRONDISSEMENT WHERE JEAN TIBERI TOOK HIS ASSEMBLY SEAT  
IN A LANDSLIDE DURING THE LEGISLATIVE BY-ELECTIONS OF  
LAST NOVEMBER. D'ORNANO, USING A POLITICAL NOSE FOR  
WHICH HE HAS YET TO RECEIVE MUCH CREDIT, HAS SMARTLY  
ATTACKED CHIRAC FOR TAKING THE EASY WAY OUT, AND ASKED  
THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER TO WITHDRAW HIS OWN LIST IN  
THE 18TH ARRONDISSEMENT. IF CHIRAC REFUSES HE WILL  
APPEAR EVEN MORE THAN HE ALREADY DOES AS THE DIVIDER OF  
THE MAJORITY. IF HE AGREES, HE INCREASES D'ORNANO'S  
CHANCES AND PUTS FURTHER IN JEOPARDY HIS OWN  
CHANCES FOR THE HOTEL DE VILLE.

5. REACTIONS: REACTIONS TO D'ORNANO'S MOVE DO NOT FOLLOW  
STRICT PARTY LINES. WHILE HENRI FISZBIN, WHO HEADS THE  
PCF LIST FOR THE MAYORALTY, CONDEMNS D'ORNANO'S ACT AS  
ONE MORE MANIFESTATION ON THE PART OF THE CURRENT MAJOR-

ITY TO CREATE THE SEMBLANCE OF A CHOICE (BETWEEN CHIRAC  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 05150 02 OF 02 181953Z

AND D'ORNANO) FOR THE MAJORITY ELECTORATE, PS LEADER  
FRANCOIS MITTERRAND TAKES A DIFFERENT TONE. "IN PRESENT-  
ING HIMSELF IN THE 18TH ARRONDISSEMENT, D'ORNANO TAKES A  
RISK AVOIDED BY JACQUES CHIRAC, WHO DECIDED IT WOULD BE  
MORE CONVENIENT TO BE A CANDIDATE IN THE COMFORTABLE  
FIFTH ARRONDISSEMENT." MITTERRAND'S REACTION BECOMES  
UNDERSTANDABLE IN LIGHT OF PS THINKING, WHICH IS THAT  
CHIRAC REPRESENTS A GREATER THREAT TO THEM THAN D'ORNANO.  
JOEL LE TAC, HEADING THE RPR LIST IN THE 18TH, HAS SWORN  
THAT HE WILL NOT WITHDRAW.

6. CONCLUSION: SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT EVEN IF  
D'ORNANO LOSES, CHIRAC'S POSITION WILL BE DIFFICULT,  
SINCE IR AND CENTRIST MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS WHEN VOTING  
FOR THE MAYOR WILL FEEL FREER TO "BETRAY" CHIRAC TO A  
THIRD PARTY (NOT A UNION OF THE LEFT CANDIDATE). IN  
REALITY IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO READ ANY KIND OF PATTERN  
INTO THE EVENTS NOW UNFOLDING IN PARIS. CANDIDATES ARE  
SHOOTING FROM THE HIP, REACTING TO INCIDENTS AS THEY  
OCCUR AND MAKING TACTICAL MOVES ON THE BASIS OF THEIR  
"ADVERSARIES" MOVES. A PUBLIC OPINION POLL PUBLISHED ON  
FEBRUARY 17TH GIVES BOTH D'ORNANO AND CHIRAC A 50-50  
CHANCE OF BEING ELECTED MAYOR. D'ORNANO'S DECISION,  
WILL UNDERSTANDABLY GALVINIZE TROOPS THAT WERE HITHERTO  
MOROSE OVER THE MINISTER'S CHANCES. THIS MUCH CAN BE  
SAID SO FAR -- NOBODY THOUGHT D'ORNANO HAD IT IN HIM.  
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION CANDIDATES, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PARIS05150  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770059-0212  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770227/aaaaaxre.tel  
**Line Count:** 204  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** f1977cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 PARIS 2102  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3280901  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MICHEL D'ORNANO: DOUBLE OR NOTHING FOR PARIS  
**TAGS:** PINT, FR, (D'ORNANO, MICHEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f1977cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009